



State of Utah

Department of
Natural Resources

Division of
Oil, Gas & Mining

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Lieutenant Governor

February 5, 2004

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Georgia Pacific, Hebe Mine, M/015/072, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: January 28, 2004
Time of Inspection: About 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Conditions: Clear, 20's, patchy snow about an inch deep
Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

The operator requested that the Division release a portion of the permitted/bonded area because it has not been disturbed. These areas are identified as "D" and "E" on Attachment A of the reclamation contract. The purpose of the inspection was to verify that there has been no disturbance in this area.

Observations:

Within the disturbed area, there were some tracks, but there was otherwise no sign of recent activity. The site appeared unchanged since last May.

The area where the operator had proposed to mine is to the northeast of the disturbed area. There is an ATV trail leading to this area, and I was able to find a section corner marker between Sections 13, 14, 23, and 24. This corner is shown on the map as being just outside the proposed disturbed area, and there was no mine-related disturbance. Maps of the area also show a dike. I found the dike, but, again, there was no mining disturbance.

The operator has transplanted about 40 plants of Wright fishhook cactus, a listed endangered species, from areas that have been or are intended to be

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disturbed. When I looked at these plants last year, I thought most had survived and were doing well. I looked at them a little more closely this time. Some of the plants are clearly alive and appear to have bloomed last spring. One could clearly see that these plants were green. Most of the plants, however, did not have this same appearance, and I now think that they are dead.

I took six photographs in a panorama of the site and stitched them together into Photo 1. This was done to document the current site conditions and to allow a future inspector to more easily tell if there has been any activity. I took other pictures of adjacent undisturbed areas, but I am not including them with this report.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The Division can release areas "D" and "E" from the permit area and from reclamation liability.

Before allowing areas of Wright fishhook cactus to be disturbed, the Bureau of Land Management needs to closely evaluate the success or failure of transplanting done at the Hebe Mine. Transplanting may not be a good mitigation tool.

PBB:jb

cc: Russ Harms, Georgia Pacific
Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM

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ATTACHMENT

Photographs

M/015/072, Hebe Mine, Georgia Pacific

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Photo 1. Panorama of the disturbed area looking from the east.